The University as Your Partner: Adding Value to Conservation Initiatives

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The University as Your Partner: Adding Value to Conservation Initiatives

Presentation by
Margaret N. (Peg) Rees, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Public Lands Institute
to
Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Board of Directors
October 24, 2008
Collaborative Partnership

Southern Nevada Agency Partnership

UNLV

Community Partners

Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act
UNLV Resources

- Secure database on UNLV’s national supercomputer
- Access to faculty members
- Access to academic departments, research facilities, and meeting, training, and conference centers
- Access to university resources that help facilitate campus and community awareness and meet volunteer recruitment objectives
- Access to the university’s 28,000 students
- Access to advanced computer technology and staff
- Identify university faculty with expertise that match the needs of agency personnel
- Encourage and provide incentives to faculty to develop collaborative research projects
- Expand undergraduate and graduate student opportunities for research on public lands
Public Lands Institute

• Formed in April 2004 to foster an integrated, holistic approach to managing and stewarding the public lands with federal and local partners

• Staff manages and delivers externally funded cooperative conservation projects

• Projects are local, regional, and national in scope which:
  – Are compatible with UNLV’s mission
  – Enhance education and research
  – Draw upon expertise of faculty, staff, students
Our Mission

The Public Lands Institute is dedicated to strengthening the national fabric that is essential for the protection, conservation, multiple use, and management of public lands.
Collaborative Partnerships

In collaboration with federal, state, and non-profit partners, we are

- creating new knowledge
- advancing technology
- improving education
- engaging the public to become involved in conservation and stewardship.
Network of Community Partners

- American Recreation Coalition
- Archaeo-Nevada Society
- Bureau of Reclamation
- CHOLLA
- Clark County Parks & Recreation
- Clark County Air Quality & Environmental Management
- Clark County School District
- College of So. Nevada
- Desert Research Institute
- Forever Resorts
- Friends of Gold Butte
- Friends of Nevada Wilderness
- Friends of Red Rock Canyon
- Friends of Sloan Canyon
- Great Basin Institute
- Las Vegas Springs Preserve
- Latin Chamber of Commerce
- Mojave Rock Art Workshop
- Nevada Wild Horse Assoc.
- Nevada Archaeological Association
- Nevada Community Foundation
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Nevada Outdoor School
- Nevada Rock Art Foundation
- Nevada State Museum & Historical Society
- Nevada Wilderness Society
- Outside Las Vegas Foundation
- Paradise Professional Development School
- Pictographics
- Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Assoc.
- River Mountains Trail Partnership
- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- Southern Nevada Interpretive Assoc.
- Southern Nevada Regional Trails Partnership
- Southern Nevada Rock Art Assoc.
- Torino Ranch Foundation
- Virgin River Conservation Partnership
Involving Faculty and Students

- **College of Business**
  - Department of Public Administration

- **College of Education**
  - Department of Curriculum and Instruction
  - Department of Educational Leadership
  - Center for Evaluation and Assessment

- **College of Engineering**
  - Center for Transportation Research

- **College of Fine Arts**
  - School of Architecture
  - Department of Film

- **College of Liberal Arts**
  - Department of Anthropology
  - Department of History

- **College of Sciences**
  - Department of Biological Sciences
  - Department of Geoscience

- **College of Urban Affairs**
  - Department of Environmental Studies
  - Department of Communication Studies
  - UNLV-TV

- **William S. Boyd School of Law**

- **Facilities Management and Planning**
  - Office of Planning & Construction
  - Rebel Recycling Program

- **Division of Student Life**
  - Campus Life Scheduling and Conferences
  - Campus Recreational Services

- **Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies**

- **National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment**

- **UNLV Foundation**
Spheres of Involvement

- Research
- Community Engagement
- Education
Our goal is to engage and inspire people to actively participate in the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our public lands.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program
- Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program
  - Get Outdoors Nevada
- Take Pride in America in Southern Nevada
  - Anti-Litter & Anti-Dumping Program

Projects
Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program
   - Anthropology department provides teaching staff for training site steward volunteers
Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program

- Get Outdoors Nevada
  - UNLV communications tools to recruit volunteers
  - Hotel college senior capstone class assists in the development and implementation of annual volunteer recognition event
  - Outdoor Adventures and Student Services recruit and organize student volunteers
Take Pride in America in Southern Nevada
- Anti-Litter & Anti-Dumping Program
  - Collaborative funding to build sustainability into our programs
Education

Our goal is to provide people of all ages with opportunities to acquire the skills, knowledge, and commitment to participate in the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our public lands.
EDUCATION

- Conservation Education & Interpretation Strategy
- Discover Mojave Outdoor World Program
- Forever Earth Science Program

Projects
Conservation Education & Interpretation Strategy

- Collecting and sharing information to reach our shared audiences
- Conducting grassroots outreach in culturally appropriate ways to effectively connect with diverse audiences, including Hispanic communities
- Utilizing three AmeriCorp Vista members
Discover Mojave Outdoor World Program

- Access to professional educators, assessment experts, a working relationship with CCSD, on-site professional development school, research facilities.
Forever Earth Science Program
Research

Our goal is to create high quality, relevant, up-to-date knowledge that is needed to solve problems and make effective decisions about the management, protection, and responsible use of public lands.
RESEARCH

Projects

- Science and Research Strategy for Southern Nevada
- Plants, Animals, Air & Water Monitoring
- Data Management and Analysis
- Alternative Workforce Study
- Anti-Litter Strategy for Southern Nevada
- Limnology Assistance Program
• Working collaboratively with agency researchers and resource managers to meet conservation obligations and objectives.

• Recruiting quality researchers to meet agency needs.

• Recruiting undergraduate and graduate students to work on research and management projects on public lands and provide supervision of their efforts.
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